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Articles in Today's Clips Tuesday, March 27, 2007

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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Police following tips trying to identify baby

No clear cause of death for newborn discovered near tree outside motel

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

BY AMALIE NASH

News Staff Reporter

The identity of the mother remains a mystery, but police say they continue to receive tips a week after a newborn baby's body was found behind an Ypsilanti Township motel.

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Cmdr. Dave Egeler said detectives have been following up on tips since the baby's body was discovered March 19, but none has resulted in substantive leads.

Police are still hoping someone with information will come forward to help identify the mother of the newborn boy, whose body was wrapped in a bundle of clothing and bags. The manager of the Motel Manor in the 2800 block of East Michigan Avenue found the baby's body under an evergreen tree next to a fence while walking his mother's dogs the evening of March 19.

A medical examiner determined the newborn was alive when he was born, but could not say how long he lived.

There was no clear cause of death, and Egeler said police may never know exactly what killed him or how long he lived because of the condition his body was in when he was found. The baby had likely been left there a few days earlier, police said, but they are unsure of whether the infant was alive or dead when he was abandoned.

The Caucasian newborn was wrapped in a white Hanes T-shirt and a medium black Southpole zip-up hooded sweatshirt.

Millie Dziak, owner of Motel Manor, said Monday that she has heard rumors from customers about the potential identity of the mother, but none has any concrete information. She said she hopes police are able to quickly solve the case.

A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information through the Crime Stoppers Alliance tip line at 1-800-773-2587. Tips also can be left on the sheriff's tip line at 734-973-7711.

Amalie Nash can be reached at anash@annarbornews.com or 734-994-6832.

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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Michigan offers refuges for unwanted newborns

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

BY MEGAN BROWN

News Staff Reporter

In the six years since Michigan's Safe

Haven law was enacted, at least 44 newborns statewide have been handed over to authorities by mothers who couldn't or didn't want to care for them.

The law, which allows parents to turn over an infant within 72 hours of birth to an on-duty employee of a police station, fire station or hospital without facing criminal charges, could have been an option for the mother of the baby boy whose body was found last week outside an Ypsilanti Township motel, officials say.

"A mother could feel safe choosing this

option," said Kara Gavin, University of Michigan Health System spokeswoman. The health system has been involved with at least one such birth, Gavin said.

The body of the baby boy, the umbilical cord still attached, was found wrapped in a bundle of clothing and bags under a tree near the Motel Manor on East Michigan Avenue on March 19. A medical examiner determined the baby was alive when he was born but could not say how long he lived or whether he was alive when left under the tree.

The governor has proclaimed April 10 as Safe Delivery of Newborns Day, to make the public better aware of the law, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2001. There have been two surrenders in Washtenaw County - one in 2003 and another 2005 - according to statistics from Michigan's Department of Human Services.

When an infant is left with an emergency service provider, the official is obligated under the law to inform the mother of her rights and to encourage her to provide health information that could benefit the child.

The baby's health is immediately checked and a social worker is contacted. If evidence of neglect or abuse is found, Child Protective Services is notified. Since the law's enactment, some surrenders have been complicated when newborns tested positive for drugs. If no foul play is detected, the infant is turned over for adoption.

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County has been involved in three safe delivery adoptions since 2006, said Elly Falit, an adoption counselor.

"Lately, what's been happening is women have been giving birth in a hospital and leave the baby in the hospital," Falit said. Parents have 28 days to petition for the return of the child.

Forty-seven states provide safe haven laws for the surrender of a newborn. Alaska, Hawaii and Nebraska do not protect parents who leave their newborns with an emergency service provider.

Contact Megan Brown at 734-994-7852 or mbrown@annarbornews.com.

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This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**
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March 27, 2007

Shelby Township

Mom able to stand trial

Macomb Twp. woman accused in kids' deaths faces more tests

Edward L. Cardenas / The Detroit News

SHELBY TOWNSHIP -- The Macomb Township mother accused of stabbing her two young daughters to death has been determined to be competent to stand trial, but still faces additional testing.

The future tests will help determine her state of mind at the time of the slayings.

Defense attorney Steven Freers said Monday that the Forensic Center in Ypsilanti found Jennifer Kukla, 30, competent to stand trial. She will return there for more tests to determine her mental state at the time of the killings.

"She fully understands this is going to take some time," said Freers, who added that his client is now on anti-depressant medicine. The drugs have "made her more competent. She knows what she did."

Kukla appeared in 41-A District Court in Shelby Township Monday for a pretrial hearing on two counts of first-degree murder. Freers said he is in the process of locating his own psychologist to conduct exams.

Kukla is expected to return to court in 30-45 days when the examination is complete. She is being held without bond at the Macomb County Jail for the murders of her children, 8-year-old Alexandra and 5-year-old Ashley Kukla, on Feb. 4 in their Macomb Township mobile home.

"We are happy to get the end result (of the testing), we got the competency," said Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith.

"The sooner we are able to get this case resolved, the better."

Police said the single mother who worked at McDonald's in Macomb Township grabbed a large kitchen knife and chased her two young daughters through their home in the Hometown Macomb mobile home park on M-59 near Card.

You can reach Edward L. Cardenas at (586) 468-0529 or ecardenas@detnews.com.

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The County Press

Stepfather charged with abuse

by SUSAN YOUNGER
staff reporter

Two young girls told police they were beaten by their stepfather for sneaking drinks of apple juice.

The girls, 9, and 6, and their brother, 8, were removed from their home Friday by Lapeer County Circuit Court Judge Michael Higgins and placed in foster care. Bryan Mauk, 23, their stepfather, is charged with first degree child abuse and resisting arrest. He was arraigned Friday by District Court Magistrate Gregory Wise.

If convicted on the first count, he could spend a maximum of 15 years in prison, said Lapeer County Prosecuting Attorney Byron Konschuh.

Mauk was arrested Thursday by Michigan State Police troopers Cevin Brown and Denis McGuckin at his Rich Township home after school officials found suspicious marks on one of his stepdaughters, 9.

"The children had been severely spanked," said Lapeer County assistant prosecutor Geoffrey Stuart. "One went to school in quite a bit of pain. North Branch school officials contacted Child Protective Services and the Michigan State Police to investigate."

The oldest girl, 9, told Brown she and her sister went to bed about 10 p.m. Wednesday. She said about 11:30 p.m., Mauk came into their bedroom and accused the two of stealing drinks of apple juice. The older sister said she admitted sole responsibility because she didn't want her younger sister to receive a beating.

She told Brown Mauk grabbed her by the shirt and shorts and pulled her on to her stomach. She said he then held her down by placing one arm across her back and placed a pillow over her head. She said he pressed her face into the mattress while she cupped her hands around her mouth so she could breath. He spanked her about 15 times, she told authorities.

The younger sister said she was also punished. He spanked her so hard, the bed was shaking and her feet hit the end of the bed, she said. She added she screamed, and woke up her mother, who made Mauk stop.

Authorities found marks on the two sisters' bodies which were thought to be inflicted from the severe spankings.

Mauk resisted and tried to break away when Brown and McGuckin arrested him at his home Thursday.

The children's mother, who has serious health issues and is unable to care for herself, or her children, was placed in adult foster care.

The three children have been placed together in foster care. Relatives have been notified, and all interested parties must appear at a 1:30 p.m. Friday hearing.

At press time Saturday, Mauk remained in jail, unable to pay the \$100,000 cash or surety bond bail.

Susan Younger may be reached at (810) 664-0811, Ext. 8122 or susan.younger@lapeergroup.com.

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Police: Man Forces Teen To Wear Dog Collar As Punishment

POSTED: 10:51 am EDT March 27, 2007

A Madison Heights man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his stepson.

Demetris Polyzois, 43, allegedly assaulted his 13-year-old stepson who was visiting him at his Madison Heights home.

After the teen came home late, Polyzois allegedly threw him against the house and a door. Then he attached a dog collar to the teen's waist and neck and ordered him to sit in silence, the Daily Tribune reported.

The teen's father contacted Madison Heights police to report the alleged abuse.

Polyzois is charged with domestic assault and battery. He is currently out on a \$200 bond.

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North Branch Man Faces 15 years In Prison For Child Abuse

March 26, 2007 04:44 PM EDT

(TV5) -- In North Branch there is a disturbing case of child abuse. Twenty-three year old Bryan Mauk is in jail charged with first degree child abuse and resisting and obstructing an officer.

Teachers noticed marks on the neck of Mauk's nine year-old step daughter and called police. He now faces 15 years in prison.



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The Detroit News

March 27, 2007

Mount Clemens: Bond cut in drug case

A Clinton Township couple charged with packing the illegal drug ecstasy in candy wrappers and hiding cocaine in their children's diapers had their bond reduced Monday by Macomb Chief Circuit Judge Antonio Viviano. Marvin Blocker and Tanya Humphreys each are charged with six counts of drug possession and one count of second-degree child abuse for keeping the substance near the five children with whom they shared a house, police said. Blocker's bond was reduced from \$300,000 to \$50,000, and Humphreys' from \$100,000 to \$30,000. The couple's attorney argued the bond should be reduced because his clients have minimal criminal histories and are not a flight risk.



THE BAY CITY TIMES

Kawkawlin man sent to prison for assaulting 12-year-old

Monday, March 26, 2007

By **CRYSTAL HARMON**

TIMES WRITER

A 33-year-old Kawkawlin man, who repeatedly sexually assaulted a 12-year-old girl he was baby-sitting, will spend the next 10 to 17½ years in prison.

Bay County Circuit Judge William J. Caprathe issued the prison sentence to Duane R. McCarthy, of 1034 Fraser Road, on Monday.

Bay County Prosecutor Kurt C. Asbury said the victim's courage in coming forward about the assaults led to the successful prosecution of the case.

"This defendant robbed this victim of her childhood and stole her innocence while manipulating her for his own sexual gratification, causing not only this victim to suffer, but also her family," Asbury said.

McCarthy pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in exchange for the dismissal of two other identical counts and a count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The crimes occurred between December 2004 and February 2005, but didn't come to light until September 2005.

The mother of the girl said she'd found the girl sleeping in bed with McCarthy on several occasions when she went to pick up her children from his home, but McCarthy said he allowed her to sleep there in order to protect her from his teenage son, who "had a crush" on her, according to a Bay County Sheriff's Office report contained in the circuit court file.

When questioned by a deputy on Sept. 7, 2005, McCarthy allegedly told police that he had sexual intercourse with the girl four to 10 times and that he loved her.

The case was set for trial but delayed several times as McCarthy went through a series of court-appointed attorneys.

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Marcellus man guilty in sex case

By NORMA LERNER / Dowagiac Daily News
Monday, March 26, 2007 10:10 AM EDT

CASSOPOLIS - A jury of five men and seven women found a Marcellus man guilty of two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct on Thursday after a three-day trial.

The jury deliberated more than two hours to find Joshua Williams guilty of sexually assaulting a 3-year-old girl who was in his care while he babysat for her on Jan. 20, 2000.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Ronning in closing remarks said the child, now 10, was 3 years old at the time.

The incident happened in Porter Township while Williams babysat the girl as a friend of the family while the mother worked a night shift.

The case had never been closed and was re-investigated by the Cass County Prosecutor's Office and Michigan State Police after another witness came forward to say she had been molested by the same person.

Prosecutor Victor Fitz then authorized charges.

Williams was arrested Oct. 11, 2006, and is now 24. His address was listed as 194 Jones St., Marcellus.

Ronning said on Friday, "We are happy that the defendant will pay for what he did to the little girl. The family is pleased. We are looking forward to sentencing day."

In closing remarks, Ronning reminded the jury of testimony they heard that the little girl was found with bruises to her eyes, face, neck, back of her neck, chin and vaginal area and other parts of her body plus a cigarette burn on her buttocks.

After discussion with relatives, the mother took her to a hospital where the child was examined, he said.

She was placed in protective custody after the incident.

Ronning said Williams claimed he was molested when he was 14 years old and had been burned with a cigarette.

"Three years later he molested her, burned her with a cigarette. He knows." He said Williams was haunted by it.

Ronning said the child in 2000 said that "Josh" hurt her.

The prosecution brought 11 witnesses to the stand, including two doctors, a nurse, a state police detective and others, including the victim.

Defense lawyer Victor Bland of Kalamazoo in closing arguments said there is no DNA that links Williams to the crime, no hair sample, nothing.

The girl says there was no sexual abuse that happened. He told jurors they can only speculate as the reason might have been her age. He said the child doesn't remember what happened.

Possibly there were two incidents. "Possibly the child was abused by someone else, possibly in Indiana."

Bland also indicated that maybe the mom, a single mom, "lost it and assaulted this child."

He also questioned why the child's father who came to the house after the incident was unemotional about it.

Bland told the jury if they had the same questions and were not sure, not to approve.

"I say you must acquit Joshua Williams."

Williams is scheduled for sentencing at 9 a.m. April 27. He faces life or any term of years.

Greg Ferrier's trial was adjourned to May 22.



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Published March 27, 2007

Mourners recall slain woman as loyal friend, devoted mom

Tara Grant's uncle urges family, friends not to focus on anger

By JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press Writer

GLADSTONE - Through tears and occasional laughter, family and friends paid final respects Monday to Tara Lynn Grant, recalling happy episodes from the slain businesswoman's life and urging each other to avoid bitterness.

About 270 people sang hymns, prayed and shared memories during Grant's funeral at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone.

"Today and every day, let her continue to be an inspiration and source of strength," said Tom McLaughlin, one of Grant's uncles. "I know she'll be there for us, and I know she'll do it with a smile on her face."



(Photo by Elizabeth Conley/Associated Press)
Committed remembrance: A card from Macomb Detective Sgt. Brian Kozlowski is displayed Sunday among flowers during a viewing for Tara Grant at Crawford Funeral Home in Escanaba. Her funeral was Monday in Gladstone.

Tara Grant's husband, Stephen Grant, is charged with strangling the 34-year-old mother of two on Feb. 9 and dismembering her body. He had reported her missing but fled March 2 as police searched the couple's Macomb County house, where they found her torso in the garage.

Stephen Grant was captured two days later more than 200 miles away, hiding under a fallen tree in snowbound Wilderness State Park. Police said he made a graphic confession while being treated for hypothermia at a hospital.

His name was not mentioned during the funeral. Speakers focused on Tara Grant, whose casket, draped with a white cloth bearing a cross symbol, was placed near the altar of the sanctuary.

McLaughlin told fellow mourners they would ask "Why, God?" many times but should not lose faith or become consumed with anger.

"For Tara's sake, we cannot let this happen," he said. "We know that Tara Lynn had a capacity to love and be loved, a capacity for forgiveness, for faith and understanding, and for compassion."

"We can honor Tara's life by embracing these qualities in full measure as Tara would want us to do."

Melissa Hanson recalled a happy childhood with her close friend: Girl Scouts; 4-H competitions; Bible camp; "chasing boys."

"We spent many hours in the girls' bathroom at school, primping and solving all our teenage problems," Hanson said.

Tara Grant was "a true, loyal, golden friend" and driven to succeed, Hanson said. When her horse wouldn't move fast enough during a show, she wore spurs next time she mounted the stubborn animal.

The episode was typical of Grant, Hanson said: "Nobody was going to force Tara to walk through life if she thought she was ready to trot or canter."

She pursued her career with the same determination, said Lou Troendle, a vice president of operations for Washington Group International, based in Boise, Idaho. Grant was an operations manager for the engineering and construction firm, which has an office in Troy.

So impressive was Grant during her job interview, Troendle said, that he immediately canceled appointments with other candidates.

"She probably worked twice as hard as most people because she was a woman in a man's world," he said.

Grant was buried nearby in Delta County's Wells Township, a final homecoming for a person who Troendle said thrived in the city but never forgot the small towns and countryside of her youth.

"She was very proud of where she came from," Troendle said. "She may have lived in the Detroit area, but she was from the U.P."

Stephen Grant, 37, is in the Macomb County Jail. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 15 on charges of murder and mutilation of a corpse.

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Foster parents needed throughout U.P.

MARQUETTE — Foster parents are in great need in the Upper Peninsula.

“We have children who do not have homes to go to,” says Christine Myers, CFO of Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan, which provides foster care throughout the U.P. “We really need caring individuals or couples to share their homes and lives with children who have no other place to go.”

The foster care program is designed to provide a substitute family life experience for a child in a household that has been approved and licensed. When a child cannot be reunited with the parents, the children are prepared for permanent placement, with relatives or non-related adoptive families. Under certain circumstances, a foster family may adopt children in their care. When adoption is not possible, the goal is to prepare the youth for independent living.

Teaching Family Homes provides training, 24/7 support and a daily stipend to foster parents, who in turn provide a safe, supportive home for children. Foster parent's help children learn to trust others and believe in themselves again. They help discover and nurture a child's unique talents and qualities and give them hope in a brighter future.

“To be a foster parent you don't need to be a model citizen or have all the answers,” says Myers. “You just need to have love, patience, and willingness to share your home and family with a child in need.”

Teaching Family Homes is a certified affiliate of the original Father Flanagan by changing the way the U.P. cares for its families.



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Published March 27, 2007

Backup child support system ready

By Christine Rook
Lansing State Journal

Online

- Tier Technologies Inc.: www.tier.com

A backup system for processing Michigan's child support payments is set to come online by late April.

The Lansing office of Tier Technologies Inc., which handles those payments, is setting up an emergency processing system in Duluth, Ga., outside Atlanta. It could be used if, for example, the Midwest is struck by a massive power-grid failure.

"You want it to be significantly far away from the area where a disaster occurs," said Matt Brusch, director of communications at Tier's corporate offices in Reston, Va.

None of the 110 Tier jobs in Lansing will be lost as a result of locating backup equipment out of state. In fact, Michigan's Department of Human Services requires Tier have off-site backup.

"All of this became more important to everyone as a result of what happened after Hurricane Katrina," said human services spokeswoman Maureen Sorbet, referring to the broad destruction.

Tier has a five-year, \$85 million contract with the state. It began processing claims in 2005, when it employed 150 locally. The contract expires September 2009.

Lansing is not expected to become a backup center for any of Tier's 13 other locations.

Contact Christine Rook at 377-1261 or clrook@lsj.com.

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March 27, 2007

Taylor

Man kills wife and himself

Four children are in the apartment and hear shots; the couple had history of arguments, police say.

Norman Sinclair and Orlander Brand-Williams / The Detroit News

TAYLOR -- A history of domestic arguments escalated into brutal violence Monday as James Hawkins, 49, apparently shot and killed his wife, Allynn Chene McDade, 26, before turning the gun on himself inside their Taylor apartment, police said.

Taylor Police Cmdr. Don Helvey said officers were called to the Springs Apartments about 8:30 a.m. by a friend of McDade's who went over to the apartment.

The woman told police she was met by the couple's four children, who told her their parents had been shot, Helvey said.

Helvey said the oldest child, a 9-year-old boy, told police the children were getting ready for school when their parents started arguing upstairs. The boy said he and the other children heard shots, and he went upstairs to check on his mother.

The boy told police that Hawkins, his stepfather, fired a shot at him before turning the gun on himself.

McDade and Hawkins were parents of a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old. The 9-year-old and a 7-year-old were McDade's children from another relationship. Hawkins and McDade were married six months ago.

McDade's aunt, Diana Taylor, said recent financial hardships added stress to the relationship. "He had a barber shop and it closed two months ago," she said.

Although there had been problems, Taylor said the family never imagined Hawkins would take her niece's life.

"We never thought it would get this heated; otherwise, she never would have married him," Taylor said.

Helvey said police had been called to the apartment previously to quell domestic disturbances. A neighbor said Hawkins and McDade had a loud fight Sunday night.

McDade had two waitressing jobs and was attending school to become a nurse.

Taylor said the family needs help with funeral costs for McDade. Relatives are setting up a memorial fund for the children. The children are with McDade's mother.

You can reach Norm Sinclair at (313) 222-2034 or nsinclair@detnews.com.

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ClickOnDetroit.com

Child Cleans Up After Apparent Murder-Suicide

POSTED: 11:01 am EDT March 26, 2007

UPDATED: 6:30 pm EDT March 26, 2007

TAYLOR, Mich. -- Taylor police were at the scene of what appears to be a murder-suicide that occurred on Monday morning.

A woman who couldn't reach her sister by phone decided to make a visit to the apartment she shared with her husband. When she arrived she said she found her sister and her husband dead, and one of their children cleaning up the mess, Local 4 reported.

The woman immediately called police and they responded to the Spring Apartments on Spring Village Boulevard in Taylor.

Police said James Hawkins, 49, and Allyn Chene McDade, 26, died from apparent gunshot wounds. Local 4 learned the couple was married in September 2006.

Police said it appears to be a murder-suicide. They also said there were four children inside the house at the time between the ages of 3 and 9 years old.

The 9-year-old was the child who was found cleaning up, police said, and added the child was shot at by the stepfather, but was able to talk to the mother before she died.

"The likelihood is there that they definitely saw something," Taylor Police Cmdr. Don Helvey said. "And probably heard something leading up to it. Chances of them not seeing something are very slim."

McDade had two children, ages 7 and 9, from a previous relationship and two children, ages 3 and 6, with Hawkins.

The children were interviewed by officials and were released to the care of family members. Protective Services has also stepped in to offer counseling for the children who heard the gunshots.

Taylor police said they have responded to calls at the same address in the past.

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RELATED TO STORY



Video: Child Cleans Up After Apparent Murder Suicide 3/26/07

Dental Program Serves 150,000

MIRS, March 26, 2007

The state's Healthy Kids Dental program has served nearly 150,000 Michigan children in its first five years of operation, the Department of Community Health (DCH) announced today.

The program — highlighted by the American Dental Association as a top five model for improving access to dental care for low-income populations — is a public-private partnership among DCH, Delta Dental and the Michigan Dental Association.

The Healthy Kids Dental program, which MDCH contracts with Delta Dental, provides dental benefits to Medicaid-eligible residents under the age of 21 who live in 59 Michigan counties. Services provided include oral exams, teeth cleaning, x-rays, and cavity.

Kalamazoo Gazette Letters
March 27, 2007

Head Start needs more funding

It has been proven that children in our society learn better when they have good physical and mental health. This is proof that the Head Start program works and kids who have Head Start are ready to learn. Forty percent of eligible Head Start children are not served by the program because of financial restrictions.

As a concerned citizen and uncle of three in the Kalamazoo school district, I worry about how funding issues will affect the education and teaching of children in the future.

What we need is to expand early Head Start so at least twice the number of infants and toddlers may be served by the program and to increase teacher qualifications and match with provisions for funding teacher training and increased salaries.

Doug Dougherty
Kalamazoo

No standoff, please; negotiate a budget

Kalamazoo Gazette Editorial

Monday, March 26, 2007

Was the Michigan Senate's rejection last week of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed service tax -- and the Senate's passage of more deep cuts aimed largely at the poor -- just the next step in the budget negotiating process?

Or is it the start of a crippling standoff between Senate Republicans on one side and the governor and House Democrats on the other?

Along mostly partisan lines, the state Senate said no to the governor's proposal for a 2 percent tax on services and responded by approving \$255 million in spending cuts -- on top of the \$344 million in cuts proposed by Granholm. Fully \$900 million must be cut from the state budget during this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, unless additional revenue can be found.

Nearly \$100 million of the cuts approved last week by the Senate are to the departments of Community Health and Human Services, which administer many programs on which the poor rely. Medicaid providers would receive \$7 million less.

And the Senate took the ax to revenue sharing, which local communities often use to hire police officers and fire fighters, by trimming \$39.9 million.

Even public education did not escape, with per-pupil spending reduced by \$34. Coming so late in the school year, many school districts will be hard-pressed to find places to trim that much money. Still, the cut is far less than the \$200-per-pupil cut that some had speculated would happen.

We expect the additional cuts approved last week by the Senate won't survive either the Democratic-controlled House or the governor's office.

And that's why we hope the Senate's move is simply the next step in reaching a compromise with the House and governor.

But we're concerned that, instead, it might just be the start of a stalemate that could bring state government to a grinding halt and signal to the private sector that Michigan is too dysfunctional a state in which to do business.

The stark truth is that while Michigan can't cut its way out of its chronic budget problems, recent polls have shown that Michigan voters clearly don't want to pay more taxes.

So it's time for elected officials to quit a standoff before it starts, and start negotiating.